

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated November 28, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claims 1, 6 and 8 have been amended, and claims 5 and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10 and 13-15 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8-11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0163615, issued to Fujioka et al. (hereafter "Fujioka") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0131003, issued to Matsumoto et al. (hereafter "Matsumoto") and U.S. Patent No. 5,737,051, issued to Kondo et al. (hereafter "Kondo"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because neither Fujioka, Matsumoto nor Kondo, analyzed alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests the combined features recited in the claims of the present application. In particular, Fujioka, Matsumoto and Kondo fail to teach an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device that includes "an organic layer on the color filter in the array region, the organic layer covering at least a portion of the single metallic black matrix to shield an electric field in the array region, wherein the organic layer is formed in the array region and in the sealant region", as recited in independent claim 1 of the present application.

Fujioka, Matsumoto and Kondo further fail to teach a method for fabricating an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device that includes "forming an organic layer on the color filter in the array region, the organic layer covering at least a portion of the single metallic black matrix to shield an electric field in the array region, wherein the organic layer is formed in the sealant region and the array region", as recited in independent claim 8 of the present application.

The Office Action concedes that Fujioka fails to disclose " an organic layer on the color filter in the array region, the organic layer covering at least a portion of the black matrix to

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shield an electric field in the array region, wherein the organic layer is formed in the array region and the sealant region and is in direct contact with the metallic black matrix and the sealant; and a common electrode and a pixel electrode on the second substrate” (see, Office Action, page 3, lines 4-9). To remedy these deficient teachings of Fujioka, the Office Action relies upon the teachings of Matsumoto and Kondo. Applicant submits Matsumoto and Kondo fail to remedy the deficient teachings of Fujioka such that no combination of Fujioka, Matsumoto and Kondo provides an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device and a method for fabricating having the combined features recited in independent claims 1 and 8 of the present application.

Applicant notes the Office Action equates the flattening film (204) in Matsumoto to the organic film recited in the claims of the present application, and further states Matsumoto discloses “the organic layer is formed in the array region and the sealant region” (see, Office Action, page 3, lines 11-13). However, as illustrated in FIG. 4 of Matsumoto, the flattening film 204 is only in the pixel area 11a and does not extend into the peripheral area 12, as required in the claims of the present application. As such, Matsumoto fails to teach the organic layer is formed in the array region and the sealant region, as recited in independent claims 1 and 8. Further, Kondo also fails to at least teach this feature of claims 1 and 8.

Because neither Matsumoto nor Kondo teach at least the above feature of claims 1 and 8, Matsumoto and Kondo fail to remedy the deficient teachings of Fujioka. Accordingly, no combination of Fujioka, Matsumoto and Kondo would provide an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device, as recited in independent claim 1, and a method for fabricating an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device, as recited in independent claim 8 of the present application. As such, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 and 6, and independent claim 8 and its dependent claims 9-10 and 13 are allowable over Fujioka, Matsumoto and Kondo. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested..

In the Office Action, claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujioka and Kondo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,894,753, issued to Song et al. (hereafter “Song”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because neither Fujioka, Kondo nor Song, analyzed alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests the combined

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features recited in the claims of the present application. In particular, Fujioka, Kondo and Song fail to teach an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device that includes, among other features, “an organic layer on the color filter in the array region, the organic layer covering at least a portion of the single metallic black matrix to shield an electric field in the array region, wherein the organic layer is formed in the array region and in the sealant region”, as recited in independent claim 1 from which claim 14 depends.

Further, Fujioka, Kondo and Song fail to teach a method for fabricating an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device that includes, among other features, “forming an organic layer on the color filter in the array region, the organic layer covering at least a portion of the single metallic black matrix to shield an electric field in the array region, wherein the organic layer is formed in the sealant region and the array region”, as recited in independent claim 8 from which claim 15 depends.

Applicant has discussed above the deficient teachings of Fujioka and Kondo. Applicant submits that Song fails to remedy the deficient teachings of Fujioka and Kondo. Specifically, Song discloses a “light interception layer 700 corresponding to the TFT and the gate and data lines” (col. 8, lines 2-3 and FIG. 8). However, Applicant notes Song does not disclose an organic layer formed in the array region and the sealant region, as recited in the claims of the present application. As such, Song fails to remedy the deficient teachings of Fujioka and Kondo. Because Song does not remedy the deficient teachings of Fujioka and Kondo, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated by the teachings of Song to modify the teachings of Fujioka and Kondo to provide an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device and method for fabricating having the combined features recited independent claims 1 and 8 of the present application.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 and its dependent claim 14, and independent claim 8 and its dependent claim 15 are allowable over any combination of Fujioka, Kondo and Song. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

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If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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